

Capitoline Venus Video Transcript

Rusty Powell, Director National Gallery of Art:

American museums, the National Gallery being the youngest of them opening only in 1941, are fascinating institutions because they're directly related to the whole idea of democracy. It's every Americans right to a good public education and the museums are a part of that. We educate everyone who comes, but we also get an international audience here; over the years the Gallery has put together great great collections of Italian art, and we certainly have one of the great ones right here.

Claudio Parisi Presicce, Director Capitoline Museum Rome:

The Capitoline Museum is the most ancient public museum of the world. Aphrodite is the most famous artwork of this museum, and we are happy to bring it here to increase the relationship between Italian and American people.

Rusty Powell:

This is one of the great masterpieces of world art; this is only the second time it has left the Capitoline. The first was by Napoleon who decided it would look better in Paris. He took it back to France for a little while, and then it was returned in 1816, other than that it has never left Rome.

Gianni Alemanno, Mayor of Rome:

We were thinking about where to relaunch the new image of Rome in the imagination of American citizens. And therefore, to reinforce this cultural exchange that there should be among different nations. For us, the Capitoline Venus is, in some way in instrument of communicating the image of Rome but also a way to show the friendship between Rome and Washington but also there are other American cities where we've brought works of art.

Claudio Parisi Presicce:

I think that this is the first type of a new agreement that we will extend with the National Gallery of Art to be in connection, to have a partnership of the many activities of the museum.

Rusty Powell:

The exchange of great cultural objects enhances everyone's experience of other cultures.